



Briefs

Regional News from HASC

Orange County Board Approves Implementation of SB 1773

The Orange County Board of Supervisors approved this week, on a 4-1 vote, the implementation of SB 1773 to raise funds for trauma centers and physician reimbursement for emergency services.

Prior to this week's vote, the Board of Supervisors had approved "in lieu" General Fund allocations for these purposes. However, the downturn in the economy and projections of lower property taxes and state realignment funds prompted the Board to reconsider the direct implementation of SB 1773.

Implementation of SB 1773 will increase surcharges on traffic fines and other violations to support trauma centers and physician reimbursements. HASC coordinated a hospital-based campaign in support of this action, working with the

Orange County Medical Association to generate support from ED physicians and securing a support letter from the Orange County Taxpayers Association.

In this campaign, HASC observed that "those who violate the law will be those who will pay" to support the medical response that is often an outcome of unsafe behavior, and noted that trauma/emergency services comprise the third component of emergency response – the other two being police and fire. Communities have come to expect all three of these services to be available 24/7.

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O.C. Supervisors Recognize 5150 Resource Priorities

The Orange County Board of Supervisors this week adopted Strategic Priorities for the '08-09 County Budget, listing the addition of inpatient psychiatric beds for uninsured patients among the priority issues for consideration of funding.

The "Inpatient Bed" item was one of nine priorities recognized by the Board of Supervisors for consideration in next year's budget. This item was recommended by the County's Health Care Agency, and was strongly supported by HASC and police chiefs across the county.

HASC's presentation at the Board meeting highlighted data collected by hospitals that show a startling increase in

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HASC Presents Successful Workshop on Joint Commission Updates

A record turnout of 125 member representatives attended a half-day program on December 6 at White Memorial Medical Center to learn about new TJC Survey Process revisions due to begin in January of 2009. The changes will include new scoring methodologies, processes for integrating IMQ Surveyor Findings with TJC Findings, and initiatives for Standards improvement.

Workshop speaker Mark Schario, senior field director of Accreditation and Certification Operations for TJC, described the new Strategic Surveillance System (S3) – a Performance Risk Assessment Tool launched on July 30, 2007 – and how it can be best used in

conjunction with the current Priority Focus Process (PFP) for validating past "fixes," setting internal goals, or trending performance in particular focus areas.

Presenter Kathleen Billingsley, deputy director for the CA DHS's Center for Healthcare Quality, outlined the current approaches being undertaken in Sacramento for Licensing & Certification regarding future 2008-09 CALS surveys, and DHS' role in enforcement of SB 1301 and SB 1312.

Other speakers included Alan Endo, pharmacy director at Presbyterian Intercommunity Hospital, who addressed CMS Black Box Warnings and what hospitals need to do to meet the related

FDA and DHS requirements; and Sarah G. Benator, of the law firm Arent Fox, who discussed how hospitals can best correct CDPH Adverse Event findings.

Members with usernames and passwords for the HASC website can access the workshop handouts from via the internet – go to www.hasc.org, log in, click on the "Hot Issues" tab, and then click on "Joint Commission Updates-Recent Survey Experience."

HASC will schedule a follow-up workshop in May of 2008 to revisit several of these issues.

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First Confirmed Influenza Case of Season Reported in L.A. County; Overflow Planning Resources Available Via HASC Website

The season's first confirmed case of influenza type A in Los Angeles County has been reported to the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health. The case was a child who resides in the eastern San Fernando Valley.

In preparation for the flu season's arrival, HASC has updated the HASC Overflow White Paper, which serves as a tool to assist hospitals to better prepare for, and cope with, potential region-wide overflow situations. The white paper

addresses a range of important overflow topics, including pre-planning, staffing considerations, community-wide coordination and more.

The document can be accessed on the HASC website – www.hasc.org. Click on the "Publications" tab, scroll down to "White Papers" and select "Overflow White Paper."

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New Patient Safety Collaborative Website

The National Health Foundation, Convergence Health Consulting, and the Hospital Association of Southern California (HASC) are pleased to announce the launch of the new Southern California Patient Safety Collaborative (SCPSC) website.

Through the website, participants can access meeting materials, register for upcoming meetings, read the latest collab-

orative news and more. We welcome your comments and hope that you will find the site helpful. We will be adding new features in early 2008.

To view the new website, go to: www.socalpatientsafety.org.

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CEO Update

Michael Barry has been named interim CEO for Hi-Desert Medical Center in Joshua Tree.

Fred Capozello has been named interim CEO for Barstow Community Hospital in Barstow.

Fred Hunter has been appointed CEO at Centinela Freeman Region Medical Center – Marina Campus in Marina del Rey.

Michael Lane has been named interim CEO for Brotman Medical Center in Culver City.

Kathleen Smith has been appointed CEO of Healthsouth Tustin Rehabilitation Hospital in Tustin.

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the number of 5150 patients this year, and that documents increasing delays in the disposition of those patients from hospital EDs into treatment settings. The Board will consider funding for this priority next spring, as part of the '08-09 fiscal year budget process.

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Save the Date: 2008 HASC Annual Meeting

April 17-19, 2008
St. Regis Resort, Dana Point, CA

The 2008 Annual Meeting will feature golf, tennis, networking, educational sessions, children's programs and more. For more information, visit www.hasc.org, click on the "Events" tab and scroll down to "Annual Meeting."